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The great merits of the book are clearness and definiteness. It seems an adequate compendium of English statutes and practice on *choses in action*. It is surely a helpful summary of their history and the principles which govern them. In the latter aspect, it has a real value for the American lawyer.

J. P. C. JR.

THE GROWTH OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE FEDERAL CONVENTION OF 1787. By William M. Meigs. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 1900. pp. iv, 374.

It is much to say of a book that it will be an indispensable one to any student of constitutional law, yet this may fairly be said of the book under review. The present volume traces in order the origin and development of each separate clause of the Constitution in the Federal Convention of 1787, from its first suggestion in that body to the form finally approved. Whenever the interpretation of any clause of the Constitution is in question, the development of that clause in the Convention must be considered in any well-advised discussion. Hitherto one was obliged to search out through the indices of Elliot's Debates this development of any particular clause, — pleasant labor always, but in result too often unsatisfactory to one without special learning in the contemporaneous literature of the Constitution. Now any one may find the history of every clause set forth succinctly and accurately in the present volume. The work, as needs be, is almost wholly without originality, but it has for that reason some part of that undying interest which attaches to every motion and every speech in the Federal Convention. However, it is just here that the book fails — in atmosphere. It is too precise, too well arranged. The Constitution grew in the Convention in no such way. Again, fault may be found with the almost entire absence of reference to the originals, and with the failure to grapple with the discrepancies between the Journal of the Convention, the Yates Minutes, and the Madison papers, — but these are conscious and deliberate omissions. And to be quite fair to the author, he has a defined object, and he accomplishes it. Moreover, especial credit is to be given to the appendix; one wonders why these six principal drafts which mark the evolution of the Constitution in the Convention were never collated before.

B. W.

We have also received : —

REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING CHANGES BY INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT. By W. G. Bullitt. Cincinnati: The Robert Clark Co. 1899. pp. xii, 360. This manual is described as written for "lawyers and those not learned in the law;" yet it must be confessed that the simple style and strict avoidance of technicality give the book a distinctly popular tone. The people are solemnly warned against an unwarranted assumption of powers by the Executive and Congress, gradual, disguised, but none the less subversive to a republican form of government. The author's conception of the government has a marked southern tone. He finds the sovereignty in the people of the respective States under the Constitution of 1787. He examines that constitution and finds no powers granted to the United States as a whole, — the three departments of the government are the